Numb. LXVI.

THE Pennſylvania GAZETTE.

Containing the freſheſt Advices Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Tueſday, February 10. to Thurſday, February 19. 1729-30.

The following Account of one of the moſt ſurprizing Events that ever was, cannot but be acceptable to the curious and inquiſitive Reader.

HIS Excellency *Coſſum Aga*, the late Envoy from the Regency of *Tripoly* to his *Britannick* Majeſty, having communicated to the King's Interpreter for the *Oriental* Languages, an Account of the Diſcovery of a petrify'd Town in *Africa*, which the ſaid Envoy copied with his own Hand from an *Arabick* Manuſcript, the ſaid Interpreter tranſlated that Account into *French*, which from that Language was tranſlated into *Engliſh*, and inſerted in the *Flying-Poſt* or *Weekly Medley* of the 23d of *September*: And is as follows.

Praiſe to GOD alone.

A Friend of mine having deſired me to tell him in Writing, what I have heard concerning the petrify'd Town, I ſhall give him a Relation thereof, as I had it from ſeveral Perſons, and particularly from a Perſon of Credit, who went on the Spot purpoſely to ſatisfy himſelf of the Truth of it; and the Account he gives is as follows.

'That the Town lies two Days Journey 'South from *Onguella*, which is diſtant 'from *Tripoly S. E.* 17 Days March with the 'Caravans. That when he came to the Town, 'which is large, and of an orbicular Form, 'wherein are ſeveral ſpacious, as well as narrow Streets, full of Shops, and defended by a 'very large and magnificent Caſtle; he ſaw 'ſeveral petrify'd Trees in and about the 'Town, moſt of them Olives and Palms, but 'all turned into Stone of a Blue or Aſh Colour.

'That the Inhabitants are alſo petrify'd: 'The Men, whilſt following their ſeveral Occupations, ſome with Stuffs in their Hands, 'others with Bread; In ſhort, all of them in 'ſome Action; and the Women with their Infants at their Breaſt; and others in ſtrict 'Embraces with Men, all turn'd into Stone. 'That he entred the Caſtle by three different 'Gates, though there are more, where he ſaw 'a Man petrify'd, lying on a Bed of Stone, 'as were the very Centinels ſtanding on the 'Gates, with their Pikes and Javelins in their 'Hands.

'That he alſo ſaw ſeveral Sorts of Animals, 'as Camels, Oxen, Horſes, Aſſes, Sheep and 'Birds, all turn'd into Stone, of the Colour 'abovementioned.

I was highly pleaſed at this Account given by the Envoy of *Tripoly*, becauſe I take it to be a ſufficient Confirmation of the Relation the World had before of that extraordinary Event, to which moſt People would not give Credit; and took it as a fictitious Story which Authors deſign'd to impoſe upon Mankind. Mr. *Lucas*, an Author ſtill living at *Paris*, has been under that Suſpicion, becauſe in his Travels into *Greece*, *Aſia Minor* and *Africa*, he has inſerted in the ſecond *Tome*, *pag.* 97. an Account, by which it appears that there is in that Part of *Africa*, call'd *Cyrenalca*, a whole petrify'd Country. I have not thoſe Travels by me, but will quote that Account given by the Author in his own Words, as I find them tranſcribed by the Authors of the *Biblioteque Germanique*, *Tom. V. Pag.* 110.

'Within three Days Journey weſtward from '*Ongella* (ſays the Author of the Memoirs 'communicated to Mr. *Lucas*) and within 8 'Journies from *Bingazi*, lies *Raſſim*, which 'ſignifies in *Arabick*, Head of Poiſon, or 'poiſoned Country. That Country is petrified, and was formerly inhabited as *Ongella*. 'There were Foreſts of Palm Trees and Olive 'Trees, which are now turn'd or converted 'into Flint Stones, without having loſt or 'changed their Figure. There are ſtill at this 'Time a great many ſtanding, which are all 'petrify'd. There is an infinite Number of 'them. The *Arabians*, Natives of that Country, that I have ſeen, and Chriſtian Slaves, 'who have been in thoſe Parts, have aſſured 'me to have ſeen and obſerved Bodies of Men, 'Women and Cattle petrified, and amongſt 'the latter a Horſe ſtanding on his Four Feet, 'that ſeem'd to be alive.

Perhaps,

Perhaps, ſays the Author of the *Biblioteque*, ſome Doubt might be raiſed concerning the Truth of ſo extraordinary a Fact; but what the Author of a Memoir (inſerted by Mr. *Lucas*) relates only upon the Credit and Authority of others, ſeveral Authors, whom we have not Time to conſult, aſſure to have ſeen with their own Eyes. It were to be wiſhed the Author of that Library would have given us the Names of thoſe Authors, that we might have compared their Accounts together; but until that Matter is more fully diſcuſſed, we think fit to refer the Reader to the curious Book of Father *Kircher*, intituled *Mundus Subterraneus*, printed at *Amſterdam*, *Anno* 1678, in which he will find an Account of innumerable Petrifications of Animals, Plants, Fruits of all Sorts, Cheeſe, Bread, and ſeveral other Things.

The amazing Petrification of the *African* Town aboveſaid, was not unknown to our learned and curious Author, for it is mentioned in the ſecond *Tome* of his Book, *page* 53. The Account he gives therein is very remarkable, and we refer to it; but for the Sake of ſuch of our Readers as have not that Book, we ſhall inſert a ſhort Abſtract of it.

'I ſhall only add, (ſays Father *Kircher*) by 'Way of Concluſion, a moſt dreadful Event 'that happened in our Days, in an Inland 'Town in *Africa*, whoſe Inhabitants, Men 'Women, Cattle, as alſo Trees, Houſhold 'Goods, Corn and other Proviſions, were, by 'a moſt wonderful and aſtoniſhing Metamorphoſis, converted into Stones. This is at'teſted by Perſons of Honour and Credit, 'who aſſert it for undoubted Matter of Fact. 'I enquired about it of ſeveral *Arabians*, In'habitants of thoſe Parts, who have unani'mouſly declared to me, That the Account 'I had received was true. Therefore I have 'thought fit to inſert here the Relation of it 'as I received it from *Habelus*, Vice-Chan'cellor of the Order of *Malta*.

I have not room to tranſlate, *verbatim*, the Letter from that Vice-Chancellor, but will obſerve, that it contains in Subſtance, That in the Year 1634, the Gallies of *Malta* brought in there five Prizes (on board which were 600 *Æthiopians* or *Negroes*) bound from *Tripoly* to *Conſtantinople*, to be ſold there; and that amongſt them was a Girl near ten Years of Age, named *Calſurakie*, who at the Time of the writing of the Letter was living, and in the Service of a Perſon of Note in *Malta*, after having been baptized, and named *Victoria*; That Slave reports, that ſhe was born in the Town or City of *Cucu*, in the Province of *Tongil*, and that when ſhe was five Years of Age, her Mother's Siſter, who lived in the Town or Village of *Biegioda*, acquainted her Parents, that *Biedoblo*, a Town within the ſame Diſtance of *Cucu* as *Biegioda*, was (in a moſt dreadful Storm that happened in the Night, in Summer Time, attended with violent Claps of Thunder, and Shocks of an Earthquake) turned in one Moment into very hard Stone, with all the Inhabitants, Cattle, Trees and other Things, *Momento in Saxa duriſſima obriguiſſe*.

That Slave reports further, That her Parents hearing of this extraordinary Event, went to *Biedoblo*, and took her and her eldeſt Brother along with them, where they ſaw this terrible Metamorphoſis, and obſerved that the Inhabitants had preſerved the Situation and Poſture they were in before they were petrified. The ſame was obſerved of Horſes, and other Animals.

This ſurprizing Event drawing great Multitudes to *Biedoblo*, the petty King of *Cucu*, went himſelf to ſee that Wonder, and afterwards thought fit to forbid all Perſons to go thither, without his Leave. The Slave aforeſaid having been an ocular Witneſs of the Particulars aforementioned, continued a whole Year after at *Cucu*, where the Petrification of the Inhabitants of *Biedoblo* was the common Diſcourſe of all People. She was afterwards removed to another Place, made a Slave with others, and ſold at *Borno* to Merchants, ſhipped off at *Tripoly*, and taken by the *Malteſe* Gallies as aforeſaid.

Whoever well examines the Account in *Lucas*'s Travels will agree, That the Perſons from whom he had it, had in all Probability ſeen the Relation which the Envoy of *Tripoly* copied out of the *Arabick* Manuſcript mentioned above, for the two Accounts agree in ſeveral Things. And as to the Account communicated to Father *Kircher*, there is no Doubt but it is a Relation of the ſame Fact, with theſe additional material Particulars. 1. The Name of the petrified Town. 2. Some Circumſtances of its Petrification, as the Seaſon of the Year, Thunder, Lightning and Earthquake, which deſerve a particular Attention in the Examination of this Phenomenon. And 3. The Year when that Prodigy happened, which by the Account given by that Slave, ſeems to have been *Anno* 1629.

If we had this Account only from the Slave aforeſaid, we might queſtion the Truth of it; but the Reader will obſerve, that a great many other ocular Witneſſes are mentioned in the three Accounts above inſerted, and that no ſolid Objections can be made againſt the Relation given by the Slave, upon Account of her Age; for every Body will find by his own Experience, that we all remember certain remarkable Things that happen'd in our Infancy, even under that Age.

London, *Aug.* 23.

Mr. Nathaniel Boſtock, the Exchange Broker (ſuppoſed to have been murdered July 19, 1728. his Coat being found early the next Morning, between Lambeth Palace and the River, torn down the Back and very bloody, as was his Wig and the Stock he had worn about his Neck) is now diſcovered to have reſided ever ſince near Truro in Cornwall, taking upon him the Name of G. Gouge, Eſq; This Diſcovery was made by his ſending 4 Eaſt-India

India Bonds which were to be paid off, but were ſtopped by the Company, they being known to have been in Mr. Boſtock's Poſſeſſion at the Time he was ſuppoſed to be robb'd and murder'd. A Meſſenger is ſent from the Secretary of State to bring him to Town, and all Letters in the Name of George Gouge, Eſq;

Sunday Evening the Axle-Tree of one of the Stratford Coaches, which had been hired that Day to go to Woodford, in its Return to London, was by the Motion ſet on Fire, and burnt thro', ſo that the Coach fell in Whitechapel, by which Accident a Gentlewoman was much bruiſed.

Monday Thomas Taylor was killed by a Piece of Timber falling upon him in St. Clement's Lane near the Church. He had been married about 7 Weeks, and that was the firſt Day of his working with that Maſter. He told his Wife in the Morning, he dreamed that a Houſe fell upon him.

Tueſday laſt one Philips, a Sawyer, at Mr. Reynolds's Timber-Yard, near Broken Wharff, was killed as he and two more were craining up a Piece of Oak Timber; he lived five or ſix Hours, but was ſo terribly bruis'd as to be hardly ſenſible before he died: The others were hurt.

Wedneſday Morning a Barge laden with Timber from Hinman's Yard for the Uſe of Putney Bridge overſet near Cuper's Stairs, when a Piece of Timber about two Ton Weight fell upon the Neck of John Somerton, which ſo bruiſed him that the Blood ſprang out of his Noſe and Mouth with great Violence; after the Surgeon had dreſt his Wounds, he was by Order of Mr. Philips the Carpenter convey'd on a Bier to St. Thomas's Hoſpital, where his Life is deſpair'd of. The ſaid Piece of Timber fell on another Man's Right Arm and bruiſed it exceedingly.

Thurſday Morning her Majeſty, and the Prince of Wales, and the Princeſſes, rode round Brompton and Chelſea for the Air, and returned to Kenſington to Breakfaſt.

The ſame Day John Harris, Servant to Mr. Croſs, a Brewer in Roſemary-lane, near little Tower-Hill, fell into a Copper of boiling Liquor, and was ſcalded in ſuch a miſerable Manner, that he died in a few Hours.

There has been lately ſeized at the Cuſtom-Houſe between thirty and forty Images of fine Paſte, which came from Italy, being a Collection of obſcene Poſtures.

We have an Account from Brownſwood, in the County of Wicklow in Ireland, That the 10th Inſtant Mr. Peter Kilbery, a Gentleman, and Richard Hanſon, an Apothecary, both of that Place, who were at Variance, happening to meet about half a Mile out of the Town, without exchanging a Word, Kilbery drew his Sword, and run the other through the Body, ſo that he died on the Spot.

We hear from Aberath, a Village in Wales, That laſt Sunday ſen'night a young Woman of that Place hanged her ſelf, becauſe her Mother-in-Law threatned to diſcover that ſhe murder'd her Baſtard Child of about two Months old in July laſt. And

From Birthby, a ſmall Sea-port Town in Lancaſhire, That on the 9th Inſtant 7 young Men and Women, taking their Pleaſure on the Water, in a ſmall Cock-boat, between that Place and Werkington, the Tide ran ſo ſtrong that it overwhelm'd the Boat, and two Men and one Woman loſt their Lives.

Auguſt 30. The following Accidents have happen'd the Week paſt: A big Boy tumbled out of a flying Chair at Bartholomew Fair, and was kill'd. A Boy and a Girl fell off a Woman's Lap in a Hackney-Coach going to the Fair, and the Hind-Wheel run over his Thigh: The Girl was not Hurt. Mr. Higgins's Daughter in Swallow-ſtreet, choak'd herſelf with a Bit of Half-penny Loaf and Butter. A Gentleman fell into Fleet-ditch Head foremoſt, but ſoon help'd out by a Link-man and the Watch.

Mr. Nathaniel Boſtock, the Broker, was apprehended Wedneſday 7 Night, 6 Miles from Truro in Cornwall by 5 Men, making very great Reſiſtance; he was conducted by 20 Men to Bodmin Gaol: He went by the Name of Thomas Thornton, as well as George Gouge.

Monday Evening a Coachman and a Foot Soldier having Words in Bartholomew Fair, the former got off his Box, and hit him with the But end of his Whip on the Head, and he died ſoon after he was carried to the Hoſpital.

Sept. 13. A Copper Mine hath been lately diſcover'd at Wooller near Chillingham Caſtle, the Seat of the Earl of Tankerville in Northumberland: His Lordſhip hath brought a Piece of the Ore to Town for Advice.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19.

Laſt VVeek ſome counterfeit Five Shilling Bills of our Currency were paſſed here; but as they were clumſily done, upon mean Letter and ordinary Paper, and very unlike the Originals, they were ſoon diſcovered, and trac'd to One who was lately in Town from New-Caſtle. Orders are ſent down to examine him about them. It is ſuppoſed they are come from the *old Quarter*; tho' 'tis ſurpriſing that a Courſe of ill Succeſs is not a ſufficient Diſcouragement to ſuch Practices.

VVe have an Account by way of New-York, That the Sloop Morning-ſtar, Evan Bevan Maſter, which ſail'd from this Place in October laſt for Barbadoes, founder'd at Sea in fair VVeather. The People ſav'd themſelves in the Boat, and arriv'd at Antigua in about 3 Days. The Sloop ſunk preſently after they left her.

Laſt VVeek a Brigantine came up which brought Paſſengers into New-Caſtle from Ireland. They had been Two and twenty VVeeks at Sea, and had thrown ſeventy-five People over-board which died by the VVay.

Saturday laſt, a Sloop arrived here in about a VVeek from Boſton; which brings an Account, that the Day before ſhe ſail'd, a Brigantine came in from London, with Advice that the Peace between England and Spain is concluded, ratified and confirmed: That —— Johnſon, Eſq; is appointed Governour of South Carolina, who had formerly been Governour there: That Jonathan Belcher, Eſq; (mentioned in our *Gazette*, No. XL.) who went home from New-England, as Agent, with the Aſſembly's Articles of Complaint, &c. againſt Governour Burnet, has ſucceeded in his Negotiations, and is appointed Governour in his Room: He is a Native of the Country, and well beloved by the People; but whether he is to inſiſt upon the Salary which Gov. Burnet was inſtructed to demand, and differed with the Aſſembly about, Time muſt inform us.

Monday last arrived here the Sloop Olive Branch, N. Legall Master, she left Jamaica in the Fall, being bound for this Place; but was taken by a Spanish Guard la Coast and carried into Campeachy, where she was detained two Months; and though the Spaniards could find nothing on board, that might make her lawful Prize, it cost the Merchant 700 Pieces of Eight, in Presents to the Officers, &c. before they could get away.

We hear from Oley in this County, that sometime last Week an Irish Servant Man near that Place deprived himself of his Testicles: The Motives that induc'd him to it are not publickly known, but 'tis said he perform'd the Operation with great Judgment, and is like to do mighty well.

The Assembly have adjourn'd till the 10th of August next, having first made the following Acts, which on the 14th Instant were by his Honour the Governour passed into Laws; *viz.*

An Act for Regulating Pedlars, and Vendues, &c.

An Act for the better enabling divers Inhabitants of the Province of *Pennsylvania* to hold Lands, and to invest them with the Privileges of natural born Subjects of the said Province.

An Act for lending the Sum of 300 *l.* in Bills of Credit, for building a Prison & Court-house in *Lancaster* County, &c.

A Supplement to the Act entituled an Act for preventing clandestine Marriages.

A supplementary Act to an Act of Assembly of this Province, entituled, an Act against buying Land of the Natives.

An Act laying an Excise on all Wine, Rum, Brandy and other Spirits, retailed in this Province.

An Act imposing a Duty on Persons convicted of heinous Crimes, and to prevent poor and impotent Persons from being imported into the Province of *Pennsilvania*.

An Act for the Relief of insolvent Debtors within the Province of *Pennsilvania*: And

An Act for continuing the Encouragement for raising good Hemp within this Province, and imposing certain Penalties on Persons manufacturing or working up unsound and unmerchantable Hemp into Cordage and Cables.

The above Acts were published on *Wednesday* the 18th Instant.

The great Snow we had here, was so much greater in New-England, as to prevent all Travelling on the Roads for a considerable Time; so that the Eastern Post was not come in to York last Thursday; and therefore our Post who waited there for him, is not yet arrived here, tho' he had been expected on Friday Night last. Upon this Account the Publication of our Paper has been so long delayed.

Custom-House, Philadelphia, Feb. 19. *Entred Inwards.*

Sloop Tace, Benjamin Hoskins, from South-Carolina.
----- Elizabeth and Mary, R. Evans, from Boston.

Entred outwards.

Sloop Tace, Benjamin Hoskins, for South Carolina.
----- Elizabeth and Mary, R. Evans, for Newfoundland.

Cleared out.

Brigt. Philadelphia-Hope, George Spafford, to Barbadoes.
Sloop John and Elizabeth, J. Casely, to St. Christophers.
Omitted in our last, Ship Richmond, John Richmond, *Entred out* for Jamaica.

Buried in the several Burying Grounds of this City, from Tuesday Feb. 10. *to* Tuesday Feb. 17.

Church	4.	Baptists	0.		
Quakers	1.	Strangers,	Whites	1.	
Presbyterians	0.		Blacks	1.	

Advertisements.

For ANTIGUA directly,

THE Sloop *SWAN*, *Robert Smith* Master, now at *Burlington* Wharff. Any Person or Persons that have a mind to transport themselves or Goods, may agree with the said Master on Reasonable Terms.

Burlington, February 17. 1729.

WRITING, Arithmetick both Vulgar and Decimal, with some other Parts of the Mathematicks, and also the Latin Tongue, are carefully taught at my School in *Arch Street*, by me *John Lloyd.*

To be SOLD:

A TRACT of very good Land, containing about Two Hundred Acres, 60 Acres clear, 6 of it good Meadow, with a young Orchard of 300 bearing Trees, and a good House and Barn; scituate on the River *Skuylkil*, on *Chester County* Side, about a Mile above *Thomas Miller's* Mill. Enquire of *Thomas Rees* at the said Plantation, and know further.

ON Wednesday the Twenty-fifth of this Instant February, at Three o' Clock in the Afternoon, at the Coffee-house in *Philadelphia*, will be exposed to Sale by publick Vendue, Two Tracts of Land, late the Estate of *Jonathan Dickinson*, Esq; deceased; one of which Tracts lies to the southward of the City of *Philadelphia*, and on the East side of the River *Skuylkil*, containing about One Hundred and Thirty-three Acres: The other located in the Northern Liberties of *Philadelphia*, on the East side of the King's Highway, commonly called *Wissahickon* Road, adjoining to the Lands lately belonging to *Richard Hill*, Esq; deceased, containing about Three hundred and Twenty-four Acres; which said two Tracts of Land are taken in Execution, and to be sold by

Philad. Feb. 13. 1729--30. *CHA. READ*, Sher.

LAtely cut and taken away, several Fencing Rails off the Lot of *Charles Brockden*, on *Society* Hill, next *Third Street*, in the City *Philadelphia*; As also a great Number of new-split Rails stolen from his Plantation at *Moyamensing*. The Person who gives Information of those Trespassers, so that they may be convicted, shall have *Twenty Shillings* Reward, paid by the said *C. Brockden.*

POSTSCRIPT.

This Evening the Post came in, and brings the following Advices.

London, October 25. On Thursday Evening was a Hearing before a Committee of his Majesty's most Hon. Privy Council, on a Complaint brought against the late W. Burnet, Esq, Gov. of N. England, for exacting Money for the registring all Vessels launched in that Government, as also on the Clearance of all Ships, &c. for sailing; which Practice their Lordships disapproved of, and were pleased to signify, that for the future no Money should be raised there contrary to Law.

Boston, Jan. 19. Yesterday Morning began a Storm of Snow, Wind at N. E. which increased in the Afternoon, and grew very violent at Night, and still continues so at Eleven this Morning; and tis like we may have as great a Quantity of Snow as we had in February 1717. when it was in a general Way 15 Foot deep throughout the Country. The Small-Pox spreads here.

New-York, Feb. 14. We have Advice from Boston that Capt. Sarly in the Brigt. Hope was put up in London for N. York in Novem. last; and Capt. Downing in the Ship Alexander arrived at London the 19th of Octob. from this Port, and design'd hither again, and would sail in January.

The News of Gov. Burnet's Death reach'd London, *Oct.* 22.

There are Letters in Town from Boston, which say a Ship was arrived there in 42 Days from England, with News that the Peace was concluded, and that Spain is to make Reparation for all the Depredations the Spaniards have committed upon the Subjects of Gr. Britain, both in Europe and the W. Indies; That the Lord Forbes is appointed General of the Leeward Islands, Mr. Belcher Gov. of N England, and Col. Johnson Gov. of Carolina; That the Lord Townshend was made President of the Council, and had taken his Place at that Board accordingly. The Earl of Sandwich and Sir *Richard Blackmore* are dead, and Sir Hans Sloane indispos'd.

Our River is now clear of Ice.

Feb. 16. On Saturday last two Sloops arrived here, one from Jamaica, the other from South Carolina; the first gives an Account, that the Spaniards have taken 14 English Vessels in the Bay, and 10 of the Masters were come to Jamaica before they left the Island. And that a Spanish Pirate also took a large Sloop belonging to Mr. Faneuil of Boston, and in cold Blood cut the Master and all the Men to pieces, saving only the Cabin-Boy. Two of the abovesaid Masters are come to New-York.

Some Letters from Boston seem to question the Truth of the Advice they had that Mr. Belcher is appointed their Governour.

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